



King County



**Department of Transportation
Metro Transit
Rideshare Operations**

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Why Electric Vehicles?

King County is pursuing alternative fuel vehicles, specifically electric vehicles (EV's), to cut fuel consumption and carbon emissions – a leading cause of air pollution. Metro Rideshare Operations has committed to purchasing 20 Nissan Leafs to pilot EV technology in a commuter application called “metropool” and coordinate the installation of charging stations at major employer sites and multi-modal transportation hubs such as Park & Rides and ferry terminals.

What is the Nissan LEAF all about?

The LEAF is a 100% electric, no gas, no tailpipe, no emissions vehicle with an estimated driving range of 100 miles on a single charge. The LEAF seats five people and is capable of driving up to 90 mph and includes a navigation system, keyless entry and iPod connectivity. The LEAF also includes a screen that tells the driver how the heater or A/C usage is affecting the driving range to help you choose how efficiently to drive.

For more information on the Nissan LEAF, visit:

<http://www.nissanusa.com/leaf-electric-car/index#/leaf-electric-car/index>

How do I charge the vehicle?

Each vehicle will have detailed charging instructions, but charging the vehicle at work is simple. Remove the connector and cord from the charging station (just like a gas pump) and insert the connector into the port on the vehicle. Electricity does not flow until plugged in. The electricity will stop flowing once the battery is “full” even though the vehicle is still connected. The charging station has an indicator to let you know it is charging and you can also check the state of the battery charge via an application on your smartphone or computer.

Where can I charge the vehicle?

Your employer has installed a Level 2 (220 volt) charging station(s) that will allow your vehicle to be fully charged in approximately 7 hours if your battery is completely empty. The cost of electricity used at your employer worksite is included in your monthly fare.

For charging stations on the go, the LEAF is equipped with an innovative EV-IT system that keeps the driver in the know by showing where nearby Level 2 charging stations are and their availability.

Blink: <http://www.blinknetwork.com/locator.html>
ChargePoint: <http://chargepoint.net/find-stations.php>
SemaCharge: <http://semacharge.com/publicstations.php>

For a one-stop, comprehensive map:

Recargo: <http://www.recargo.com/>
PlugShare: <http://www.plugshare.com/>

You may also choose to charge your vehicle at home if you choose. Nissan provides important information to determine if Level 1 (110 volt) will work in your home. VanShare groups will be asked to charge the vehicle at their designated overnight parking facility.

Will I be reimbursed for electricity when I charge at home?

No. The group and/or driver are responsible for any charges incurred when charging the vehicle at home or at a public charging station.

If I charge the car at home, what sort of costs will I incur?

The LEAF can be charged on a regular 110/120V 20-AMP dedicated outlet, which will charge at a slower rate than the charging station at your employer.

The cost to charge your vehicle will vary based on the electric rate. As a high-end example, a Nissan LEAF (realistic freeway driving range of 75 miles) and a fully depleted battery being charged at the highest rate of \$.0956/kWh in the City of Seattle may incur a cost of approximately \$2.40. That's 3 cents per mile driven.

How much does it cost to participate in this pilot?

For VanPool groups, the monthly cost will be based on your daily round-trip mileage and includes the maintenance, insurance, charging costs at your employer and 24-hour roadside assistance. The monthly cost for VanShare groups will be the current \$175 per month. The current VanPool fares per group are:

Daily RTM	Group Cost
20	\$380
25	\$435
30	\$490
35	\$545
40	\$600
45	\$655
50	\$710

Can I use the vehicle for personal use?

Yes! We are providing and encourage unlimited personal use to the group's approved drivers at no charge! However, any charging expenses as a result of additional mileage are the responsibility of the driver. Drivers who use the LEAF for personal use will be required to keep a mileage log.

Will my maintenance routine change?

No, you will still take your LEAF to your assigned maintenance garage.

What are the expectations of our group to help with evaluation?

Vendors for the charging stations will collect data from your vehicle and charging stations as it relates to usage of electricity, charging patterns, effectiveness of the infrastructure and performance of the vehicle. The data collection is automated and aggregated to remove personal information. You may be asked to participate in a focus group, interview, etc. during the pilot.

We have a bike rack on our van – will the LEAF accommodate bike racks?

Nissan is currently working with a couple different manufacturers to develop a bike rack that will be used on the Leaf.

Will the LEAF be exempt from the tolls on SR-520?

Yes! Groups travelling over SR-520 bridge will be provided with a *Good To Go* pass to place on the vehicle.

Can I transfer my WSF Rideshare Permit to the LEAF and still obtain preferential loading?

Minimum ridership requirements on the ferries will still apply.

Are we obligated to keep the LEAF for the entire pilot?

If, at any time, you would like to go back to your original commuter van vehicle, just let your maintenance representative know.